[*English*]

Excise Revenue in Andhra Pradesh

2997. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the excise revenue has either remained static or decreased for certain items, during the last three years, in the excise collectorates in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the dtails thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to improve the excise collections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The Central Excise revenue from the three Collectorates in Andhra Pradesh has shown an increasing trend during the last three years. However, among major commodities, there has been some fall in revenue from petroleum products mainly because of market conditions.

Jute Packaging for Cement

2998. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any puidelines for packaging of a certain percentage of total cement producton in jute bags;

(b) Whether any complaints have been received regarding the flouting of such Government directives by the Cement companies all over the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total cement production in the country that was sold in Jute packaging during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) the companies that erred in compliance with the Government orders/directives/ guidelines during the above period; and

(f) the action, the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f). The vires of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Co. modities) Act, 1987 has been challenged in the Supreme Court where the matter is subjudice. The Supreme Court has advised the Government not to pass any further order to the detriment of the petitioners till the disposal of the case.

[*Translation*]

Remittances of foreign exchange

2999. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received under the various provisions of the Remittances of Foreign Exchange and Investment in foreign Exchange Bonds (Immunities and Exemptions) Act, 1991 till January 31, 1992, separately;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any guidelines for the proper use of this money;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to prevent misuse of the funds received under this Act for illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) According to a report dated 5.3.1992, a sum of US$ 2.46 billion equivalent to about Rs. 6400 crores has